

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001332

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl. ⁷: F16B 5/00, 12/20, 12/32; E06B 3/00, 7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

AU: IPC F16B 5/00, 12/20, 12/32; E06B 3/00, 7/00

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI: IPC: F16B/IC AND E06B/IC AND Keywords: (CONNECTOR AND FASTENER) AND (WEDGE OR EXTEND OR WIDEN)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2291687 A (BISHOP) 31 January 1996 Whole document, in particular, figures 1 and 4	1-15
A	DE 2343047 A (DYNAMIT NOBEL AG) 27 February 1975 Whole document, in particular, figure 2	1-15
A	AU 540685 B (71458/81) (TEBB'S CANVAS PRODUCTS PTY. LTD) 29 November 1984 Whole document, in particular, figures 1 and 2	1-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C



See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
6 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 JAN 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer

LIONEL BOPAGE

Telephone No : (02) 6283 2153

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1-13: A modular connector system
Claims 14-15: A modular window system comprising window modules
Claim 16: A window frame assembly with a sash, a sill and a seal
as reasoned on the extra sheet:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-15

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-13 are directed to a connector system for connecting members together. The system comprises of a connector member and a connector member expander. The connector member in profile has an enlarged end and a narrower intermediate section between the ends. One end has a slot to receive the connector expander to expand the slot so the enlarged end is biased to retentively engage a body located adjacent the intermediate section. It is considered that the connector system comprises a first "special technical feature"
2. Claims 14 and 15 are directed to a modular window system comprising window modules, a connector system comprising an elongate connector member and a connector member expander. Each window module has slotted outer frame members. The connector member is adapted to retentively engage the slots in the slotted members when expander is applied to the connector member. It is considered that the modular window system comprises a second "special technical feature".
2. Claim 16 is directed to an improved window frame assembly having a sash, a sill and a seal disposed between the sash and the sill. The seal has a section adjacent a lower edge of the window assembly and the sill and sash has complimentary lower marginal sections outboard of the seal. The complementary lower marginal sections extend along at least the lower edge of the window assembly. The lower marginal sections define there between an inclined water passage means, downwardly inclined from a position adjacent the seal to the edge of the window ass. It is considered that the improved window assembly comprises a third "special technical feature".

Since the above mentioned groups of claims do not share the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT Rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept. As the first and second groups of claims could be searched without exerting a significant additional effort this Authority does not invite payment of any additional fee. However, searching the third group of claims will require significant additional effort over the other two groups.